



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

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Labor Leader Slams Supreme Court for Voting Act Ruling

CBTU President Says Decision “Alerts Black Folks to Fear the Vigilantes Who Wear the Black Robes on the High Court.”

Statement by CBTU President Rev. Terry Melvin

Once again, the most reactionary Supreme Court majority in our lifetime has struck a blow for white supremacy and alerted black folks to fear the vigilantes who wear the black robes on the High Court. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) strongly condemns today's ruling by the Supreme Court to strike down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, a measure that has been a cornerstone of civil rights protection and an effective weapon to thwart the political disenfranchisement of millions of American citizens.

But today's disappointment will only stiffen our resolve to battle the obstructionists in Congress and statehouses who want to suffocate voices for justice and equality while turning back the hands of time. CBTU will continue to work with our allies in the civil rights and labor movements and in Congress to restore the voting rights protections stripped away by the court.

We won't go away!
We won't shut up!
We won't go back!

CBTU, which was founded in 1972, is the largest, independent voice of more than 2.2 million African American workers in labor unions today. With more than 50 chapters in major U.S. cities and one in Ontario, Canada, CBTU is dedicated to addressing the unique concerns of black workers and their communities. Since the early 1970's, CBTU has been the leading force in the labor movement empowering African American voters through voter registration drives, voter education campaigns and get-out-the-vote operations. An ordained Baptist minister, CBTU President Rev. Terry Melvin, is also the secretary-treasurer of the powerful New York state AFL-CIO.

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